

A hand holding a Canon camera with a lens, set against a background of colorful light streaks. The camera is a Canon EOS R5, and the lens is a Canon RF 50mm f/1.2 L USM. The background features vibrant, out-of-focus light streaks in shades of red, orange, and yellow, creating a bokeh effect. The overall composition is artistic and visually appealing.

# Master Photo Composition

---

Mark A Paulda

---





# WHAT IS PHOTO COMPOSITION?

Photo composition is the arrangement of elements in a photograph.

That's it. Photo composition is as simple as that. Composition means what makes up a photograph. Images are merely visual information whether a photo is artistic or a simple documentation of a subject. So, basically when you compose a photo you are deciding which elements to include when you click your shutter release button. What are the elements?

Well, that's what this book is about - the elements of photography composition. In each section I will share with you an element of photo composition, explain why the element is important, how to use each element so you can achieve a stronger image, and then turn it over to you so you can practice with your own camera, scenes and subjects.

Photography composition is the essence of good photography. You could even say composition is the most important part of a photograph.



Poor composition can make a fantastic subject look dull and uninteresting. But, a well set scene can create a wonderful image from the most ordinary of situations. That's right, good composition can make the ordinary look extraordinary. This is our goal in this course.

In the sections ahead we will go in to detail about the rules or laws of composition. Don't worry, we are not going to spend hours discussing the rule of thirds. And, don't feel you've got to remember every one of these rules and apply them to every photo you take. Every rule and element in this course is going to help you to guide your viewer's attention in the way you want your photograph to be perceived.

Throughout this book and beyond, spend time practicing each photo composition element and in turn and they will become second nature - meaning you will automatically put the rules into practice without thinking. You'll soon learn to spot situations where the different rules can be applied to the best effect.

Does this sound challenging? It can be, though with practice, and I do mean a lot of practice, you will master photo composition with no trouble.

